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PATENT

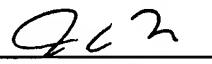
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/661,350
Filed: September 12, 2003
Inventor(s): Kay Hans-Peter
Winkler, Michael
Ulrich Körner, Dr.
Harald Ralf
Schöning, Eckehard
Hermann, René
Kollmorgen and
Dieter Hermann
Kessler

§ Examiner: Unknown
§ Group/Art Unit: 2141
§ Atty. Dkt. No: 5646-00900

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Jeffrey C. Hood



4/19/2005

Signature

Date

Title: SIGNATURE
VALIDATION AND
GENERATION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant requests consideration of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A copy of references A1-A3 listed on the Form PTO-1449 are enclosed.

1. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

a. within 3 months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d);

- within 3 months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an International application;
- before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or
- before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.

b. after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, and thus: the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed below.

c. after the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus: the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided and a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed below.

2. It is hereby certified:

- that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
- that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56 (c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. Consideration of the following additional information (including any co-pending or abandoned U.S. applications, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested:

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached Form PTO-1449:

- reference is made to an English language translation submitted herewith, and/or
- reference is made to a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith, and/or
- reference is made to an English language translation of a foreign patent office search report submitted herewith, and/or
- reference is made to the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page(s) _____, and/or
- reference is made to the concise explanation set forth below:

5. Applicant also offers the following comments for the Examiner's consideration:

6. Also enclosed is a copy of a foreign search report citing these references.

7. The listed documents were brought to the attention of the Applicant(s) after payment of the issue fee in the captioned case. The documents were cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant(s) request this

Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 be placed in the file of the captioned application.

8. Applicant(s) requests that the Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 and references, which are being filed before the grant of the patent and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(i), be placed in the file of the captioned application.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are required relating to this Information Disclosure Statement. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC, Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5646-00900/JCH.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey C. Hood
Reg. No. 35,198
Attorney for Applicant(s)

MEYERTONS HOOD KIVLIN KOWERT & GOETZEL PC
P. O. Box 398
Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 853-8800

Date: 4/19/2005

